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Maine Workers' Compensation Board

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MAE News

Newsletter from the Office of Monitoring, Audit and Enforcement

Maine Workers' Compensation Board

Summer 2013

Volume 9, Number 2



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2013 Maine Comp Summit

Comp Summit is Maine's annual, system-wide event for the workers' compensation community. The quality education at this conference reaches the legal community, occupational health and wellness providers, insurers and adjusters, case managers, and Maine employers and employees alike. Continuing education credit is sought for Maine and New Hampshire attorneys, case managers (CCM, CRC, CDMS), and human resource professionals.

2013 Topics include Independent Contractors, the ACA, the SMART Act, the Appellate Division, Section 312, Forms Galore, Insurance Rates, Mediation, 14 Days, the Legislature, FMLA and ADA Crossroads, Vocational Rehabilitation, Opioids, Ethics, Bio-psychosocial Factors, Supplemental Benefits and more. Now is the time to register online at www.maineahr.com

From the Office of Information Management ***Accurate Employee Information on FROI's***

When submitting a First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease (FROI) transaction, it is very important to be certain that the employee's first and last names are spelled correctly and that the date of birth and social security number are accurate. Incorrect information creates an additional employee record in the Board's database. Multiple identities cause delays in claims processing and in the dispute resolution process. Multiple identities also skew statistical data reported by the Board.

Regularly failing to provide accurate employee information and/or using false dates of birth and social security numbers on FROI's may be considered a questionable claims-handling technique.

Electronic Data Interchange Update

Board staff hopes to move forward over the next year to implement the fourth phase of its EDI implementations: SROI Payments.

By statute, the rules must be developed through the consensus-based rule development process set forth in Title 5, section 8051-B and must include as participants representatives of employers, insurers and 3rd-party administrators.

For further information, please contact Paul Fortier at 287-3818.

From the Claims Management Unit

The Cost of Living and State Average Weekly Wage notices effective July 1, 2013 are available at: www.maine.gov/wcb/departments/Claims/index.htm

For further information, please contact the Claims Management Unit: Telephone (207) 287-2002.

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Office of Medical and Rehabilitation Services Reminder Release of Medical/Health Care Information

WCB Rules and Regulations Chapter 8, Section 14 states "All parties shall utilize forms and instructions prescribed by the Board."

The employer or insurer may use Form WCB-220, the Limited Certificate Authorizing Written Release of Medical/Health Care Information to obtain from any health care provider, after payment to the provider of a reasonable fee, any written information only which is or has been prepared in connection with the examination or treatment regardless of date which relates to the specific body part(s) or condition(s) listed on the form. This release does NOT permit the release of any information regarding psychological, substance abuse, sexually transmitted disease treatment, testing, or counseling and does NOT authorize oral communication with or by any health care provider.

The employer/insurer must complete all informational areas of this form (except for "Employee Signature" and "Date") before asking the employee to sign, date and return the form to them. This release is not valid without the employee's signature (or the signature of a person who has power of attorney for the injured employee). The form is a three-part form that is to be distributed as follows: Copy 1 to the Employee, Copy 2 to the Insurer, Copy 3 to the Employer.

If you have questions regarding this form, please contact John Rohde at 287-7091.

National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) News

The NUCC announced the approval of the Version 02/12 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (1500 Claim Form) that accommodates reporting needs for ICD-10 and aligns with requirements in the Accredited Standards Committee X12 (ASC X12) Health Care Claim: Professional (837P) Version 5010 Technical Report Type 3. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the 1500 Claim Form under OMB Number 0938-1197.

During its work, the NUCC was made aware by the health care industry of two priorities that were included in the revisions to the 1500 Claim Form. The first was the addition of an indicator in Item Number 21 to identify the version of the diagnosis code set being reported, i.e., ICD-9 or ICD-10. The need to identify which version of the code set is being reported will be important during the implementation period of ICD-10. The second priority was to expand the number of diagnosis codes that can be reported in Item Number 21, which was increased from 4 to 12. Additional revisions will improve the accuracy of the data reported, such as being able to identify the role of the provider reported in Item Number 17 and the specific dates reported in Item Number 14.

The NUCC will be reviewing its initial proposed implementation timeline and will seek input from its members, including Medicare. An announcement will be made once the NUCC has finalized its transition timeline. In the meantime, organizations should begin work on the programming and implementation needs for the revised 1500 Claim Form. Providers will need to check with their payer and/or clearinghouses to determine when they will begin to accept the revised forms.

The NUCC has also released its annual, updated version of its 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form Reference Instruction Manual. All changes that were made to the instructions following the July 2012 release have been incorporated into this version of the manual. The updated instruction manual, Version 9.0 7/13, goes into effect immediately and is available on its website under the 1500 Claim Form tab. Any interim changes, clarifications, or corrections to the instructions following this release will be posted on the 1500 Instruction Manual Changes web page.